

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 DRC-01 /054 W  
----- 017948

R 051550Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0286

MBABANE FOR OSARAC

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS LT  
SUBJ: LESOTHO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO POLICE

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING LESOTHO POLICE. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST EXPANDING ASSISTANCE TO POLICE AND SUGGEST A SYMPATHETIC BUT ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

1. D.J.A. BRIGGS, BRITISH EXPAT ADVISOR TO PM HOLDING TITLE OF DEPUTY SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY IN CABINET OFFICE, REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN LETTER TO W.S. SMITH, WHO WAS SERVING TEMPORARILY AS OSARAC REPRESENTATIVE IN MASERU. SMITH RETURNED MBABANE BEFORE RECEIPT OF LETTER, BUT COPY HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO HIM THERE.

2. BRIGGS REQUESTED FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT: ONE MACHINE FOR RELOADING 7.62 CALIBRE AMMUNITION, TWO HAND-OPERATED RADAR SPEED TRAPS, AND 50 LAPEL-HELD WALKIE-TALKIES. IN ADDITION, HE REQUESTED TRAINING FOR ONE OFFICER IN OPERATION RELOADING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR ONE OR TWO PLATOON COMMANDERS AT PLATOON COMMANDERS' SCHOOL AT FORT BRAGG.

3. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS AGAINST ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE  
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IN PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO POLICE,

OR CHANGE IN TYPE OF ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. IN WAKE OF JANUARY COUP ATTEMPT GOL IS EMBARKED ON INTERNAL SECURITY PROGRAM ACCCOMPANIED BY REPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION, AND, POLICE REPUTATION FOR BRUTALITY HAS BEEN RECENTLY CONFIRMED. WE BELIEVE ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE TO POLICE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD AREAS SUCH AS MAKING POLICE MORE RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS, INSTILLING RESPECT FOR MODERN PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND COMBATTING DRUG TRAFFIC. (AS FAR AS WE AWARE, OUR CURRENT ASSISTANCE IS CONFINED TO TRAINING THREE OFFICERS AT INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY.)

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RESPONSE TO BRIGGS SHOULD:

--EXPLAIN THAT RECENT SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON AID-SPONSORED POLICE TRAINING, AS WELL AS GENERAL PROBLEMS WITH LEVEL OF AID FUNDING, MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUEST.

--INDICATE, IF POSSIBLE, OUR WILLINGNESS PROVIDE SPEED TRAPS. THIS JUSTIFIABLE ON GROUNDS OF TRAFFIC SAFETY AND AS MEANS OF ENFORCING FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES. IF IMPOSSIBLE FOR AID TO PROVIDE SPEED TRAPS, FURNISH INFORMATION ON THEIR COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY.

--EXPRESS REGRET OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE TRAINING AT FORT BRAGG, OR TO PROVIDE TRAINING OR EQUIPMENT FOR RELOADING, BUT PROVIDE INFO ON COMMERCIAL SOURCES FOR LATTER.

--EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE PROVIDE TRAINING FOR LESOTHO POLICE OFFICERS AT IPA FROM TIME TO TIME AS SPACE AND FUNDS PERMIT.

5. RECOMMEND RESPONSE TO BRIGGS COME FROM OSARAC OFFICER, BUT EMBASSY WILLING MAKE RESPONSE IF DESIRED. IF OSARAC TO RESPOND, REQUEST LETTER BE SENT THROUGH EMBASSY FOR CLEARANCE.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE OSARAC'S SENDING COMMENTS ON ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS DIRECTLY TO DEPARTMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO MASERU.  
HAUGHT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PERSONNEL TRAINING, POLICE FORCES, LEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**  
  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005  
  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LESOTHO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO POLICE SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAIN-TAGS: PINS, LT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005